

# House Resolution 147 - Introduced

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 147

BY HALL

1 A Resolution to recognize the destructive nature of  
2 invasive species in the state and to encourage our  
3 state to make protection of our natural resources  
4 from these destructive pests a priority.

5 WHEREAS, each year in Iowa millions of dollars,  
6 both public and private, are spent to control invasive  
7 insects, plants, and animals; and

8 WHEREAS, invasive species threaten Iowa's lands  
9 and waters by competing with and destroying native  
10 plants and animals and by disrupting complex natural  
11 ecosystems; and

12 WHEREAS, several invasive insects are threatening  
13 our woodlands including the gypsy moth which is one  
14 of the most destructive pests of hardwood trees in  
15 the eastern United States and which, along with other  
16 foliage-eating pests, has caused an estimated \$868  
17 million in annual damages in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, gypsy moths are notorious hitchhikers which  
19 have been brought into Iowa on recreational vehicles  
20 and nursery stock where their caterpillars feast on  
21 the leaves of oak, apple, basswood, hawthorn, willow,  
22 and birch trees, as well as over 200 other kinds of  
23 trees and shrubs, defoliating, weakening, and sometimes  
24 killing the trees; and

25 WHEREAS, Iowa is currently on the western edge  
26 of the gypsy moth infestation with relatively low  
27 densities of the insect and learning to recognize  
28 the gypsy moth is an important part of preventing

1 infestations and severe damage to Iowa's forests,  
2 woodlands, and urban landscapes; and

3 WHEREAS, the emerald ash borer is another pest of  
4 trees which was first discovered in the United States  
5 in 2002 feeding on ash trees near Detroit and within  
6 two years more than six million ash trees in the area  
7 were dead or dying; and

8 WHEREAS, the emerald ash borer only feeds on green,  
9 white, and black ash trees in North America, and these  
10 ash species are common in native Iowa forests and are  
11 a predominant species in the urban landscape in Iowa,  
12 with green ash being a regular component of floodplain  
13 areas and white ash being found in Iowa's upland  
14 forests; and

15 WHEREAS, emerald ash borer populations have spread  
16 to many eastern states and the insect was identified  
17 and confirmed in Iowa in May 2010 on Henderson Island  
18 in Allamakee County resulting in a quarantine of that  
19 county; and

20 WHEREAS, a voluntary moratorium on purchasing ash  
21 nursery stock from east of the Mississippi River is  
22 being encouraged by the Iowa Nursery and Landscape  
23 Association in cooperation with the Iowa Department of  
24 Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Department of  
25 Natural Resources; and

26 WHEREAS, Iowa's waters are also threatened  
27 by aquatic invasive species including Eurasian  
28 watermilfoil, Asian carp, and zebra mussels; and

29 WHEREAS, Eurasian watermilfoil is a highly invasive  
30 plant that competes aggressively with native aquatic

1 plants and forms dense mats that interfere with fish  
2 spawning and growth, and boating, fishing, swimming,  
3 and other forms of water recreation; and

4 WHEREAS, efforts to control the growth and spread  
5 of Eurasian watermilfoil in Iowa's waters have focused  
6 on preventing the introduction of the plant into new  
7 bodies of water by encouraging boaters and fishers to  
8 rinse or dry boats, trailers, and fishing equipment  
9 before transporting them to another body of water; and

10 WHEREAS, Asian carp, including bighead carp and  
11 silver carp, have also been found in Iowa's lakes and  
12 rivers, including the Iowa great lakes and the Little  
13 Sioux River watershed; and

14 WHEREAS, silver carp reach a maximum size of 40  
15 inches and 50 pounds, compete with native species for  
16 food, and are notable for their ability to jump out of  
17 the water 10 or more feet into the air when startled  
18 by boat vibration creating dangerous situations for  
19 boaters and water-skiers; and

20 WHEREAS, bighead carp can reach sizes up to five  
21 feet long and 90 pounds and also compete with native  
22 species for food; and

23 WHEREAS, zebra mussels are another aquatic invasive  
24 species which was first discovered in Lake St. Clair  
25 located between Ontario, Canada, and Michigan in 1988  
26 and has since spread to all the Great Lakes, the  
27 Mississippi River and other inland rivers, and lakes  
28 of 23 states; and

29 WHEREAS, zebra mussels were first documented in Iowa  
30 in 1992 in the Mississippi River near Burlington and

1 one year later were reported along the entire length of  
2 the Mississippi River bordering Iowa, and by 2005 were  
3 reported in Clear Lake; and

4 WHEREAS, zebra mussels spread rapidly and  
5 significantly alter the ecosystem of a body of water  
6 where they become established, reaching densities of  
7 up to 6,000 zebra mussels per square foot, competing  
8 with other aquatic organisms for food, killing native  
9 mussels by colonizing on their shells, and clogging  
10 water intakes and pipes of power plants and water  
11 supply facilities resulting in millions of dollars of  
12 repair and cleanup expenses; and

13 WHEREAS, the spread of zebra mussels to new bodies  
14 of water can be controlled by draining water from the  
15 livewell, bilge, transom well, and impeller of boats  
16 before leaving water accesses, emptying bait buckets in  
17 the trash instead of into a body of water, and washing  
18 and drying boats, trailers, and other equipment after  
19 use; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That  
21 the House of Representatives encourages the state, its  
22 agencies, and its citizens to make protection of our  
23 natural resources from invasive species a priority; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
25 Representatives supports and encourages efforts of the  
26 Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
27 and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to  
28 monitor the spread of invasive species in the state  
29 and to continue to research ways to eliminate or halt  
30 the spread of such invasive species, and supports

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1 and encourages efforts of the public to assist in  
2 protecting our state's natural resources from these  
3 dangerous invaders.